

SEM-I

MAJOR

CC 2 Paper Title- History of India (Earliest-300 BC)

UNIT-2

BHAKTI MOVEMENT

Bhakti' is a Sanskrit word that means 'devotion.' It was a movement that stressed a devotee's profound, strong connection and love for a specific deity and God's love again for the believer.

Bhakti movement started in South India during the 7th to 10th centuries CE, primarily via the poetry of Alvars and Nayanars. However, Bhakti quickly expanded to North India, with the Bhagavata-Purana, a Sanskrit work from the tenth century, being the most famous example. From the 15th century onwards, it raced across northeast India, peaking between some of the 15th through 17th centuries CE.

What Is the Bhakti Movement?

According to some researchers, the **Bhakti movement** arose due to feudal tyranny and Rajput-Brahmin dominance. However, another set of academics believes that the formation of this movement was prompted by socio-economic shifts in the early Middle Ages.

These social classes supported the Bhakti movement because they were dissatisfied with the lower social status bestowed upon them in the Hindu Brahmanical society. Therefore they resorted to Bhakti since it emphasised equality.

Although there is no consensus on the origins of the Bhakti, there is agreement on the notion that it was founded on justice and devotional submission to an individually imagined ultimate God. The reasons for the Bhakti movement's emergence.

1. Vaishnavism's Impact
2. Hinduism's abhorrent behaviours
3. Concerns about the expansion of Islam
4. Sufi sects' impact
5. The rise of great reformers

Bhakti Movement Activists

The founder of the **Bhakti movement**, Ramananda, is thought to have flourished during the first part of the fifteenth century.

- From the 16th century, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu had been an austere Hindu monastic and a social activist.
- Guru Nanak would be the creator of Sikhism, the first Sikh Guru, and a Nirguna Bhakti Monk & revolutionary activist. He was hostile to caste injustice, religious rituals, and rivalry.
- During the 12th and 14th centuries, Kabir Das was a member of the Bhakti movement. He pushed on devoted chanting of hymns to the burden, which they composed themselves.

Characteristics of the Bhakti Movement

The **Bhakti movement** was launched on monotheistic ideas and opposed idol worship.

- The Bhakti revolutionaries proclaimed that redemption can only be obtained through utmost dedication and belief in God and that they believed in breaking free from the process of decay.
- They emphasised the significance of self-surrender in gaining God's happiness and compassion and the role of Gurus as mentors and mentors.
- They promoted universal fraternity as a concept.
- Rituals, holy places, and rest periods were frowned upon. They were adamant in their opposition to the lower castes, segregating individuals based on their ancestry.
- They also emphasised the importance of praising God with profound passion, and instead of thinking of any language sacrosanct, they created lyrics in ordinary people's chosen languages.

The Bhakti Movement Had a Significant Influence on People.

Religious ramifications

1. Hinduism in its purest form
2. Brahmins' reputation was reduced.
3. Islam's expansion was stifled;
4. Sikhism arose.
5. A Buddhist setback

Social repercussions

1. A better social relationship between Hindus and Muslims
2. Lower castes have a higher social position.
3. Community services marketing

4. Societal evolution of mixed art
5. Literature enhancement

Bhakti Movement and Sufism

The Bhakti movement would be an atheistic religious leading concept in the Middle Ages. On the other hand, Sufism is best characterised as an aesthetic religion that aids believers in achieving closeness to God via beliefs and traditions.

Sufism Movement.

The Sufi school was a social and religious trend that flourished in the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries. Unconventional Muslim clerics who had studied Vedantic doctrine and Indian Buddhism were the proponents of this ideology.

They had studied numerous Indian religious texts and interacted with eminent Indian sages and mystics. As a result, they observed Indian religion up close and recognised its core values. As a result, they formed Islamic Metaphysics, which eventually became the Sufi Tradition.

Bhakti Movement

Another magnificent religious movement in Indian history would have been the **Bhakti movement**. It was solely focused on devotion to God, with no other considerations. Bhakti is a form of devotion that allows one to experience God.

Ramanuja, Ramananda, Nimbarka, Kabir, Vallabhacharya, Nanak, and Sri Chaitanya have been among the most prominent followers of this sect. They advocated the notion of love and admiration to come to terms with God. As a result, the movement became recognised as the Bhakti Movement.

Conclusion

The Bhakti Saints opposed the Buddhist Jain traditions' austerities, claiming that total dedication to God would be the only path to heaven. However, the Bhakti movement placed a much-needed focus on changing the retrograde religious system in society; it could not fulfil its goal in the purest sense.

This may be ascribed to various factors, including poor project management on a larger scale among the groups, vehement resistance from the traditional groups of the society, and royal vengeance, among others.

